(c) what concrete steps Central Government/Central PSUs propose to take to recover the dues from the SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Government has approved, in principle, the proposal of the Ministry of Power for recovery of the outstanding dues (upto Sept., 1996) of the Central Power Sector Undertakings from State Electricity Boards by appropriation from central plan assistance to States.

(b) Details of the outstanding arrears against each SEB/State Government are enclosed at Annexure. (*See* Appendix 179, *Annexure No.* 4]

(c) It has been decided that future supply of power by the Central Power Sector Undertakings will be against advance payments or irrevocable letters of credit.

Gas Agencies run on Partnership Basis

132. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies allotted during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) whether Government allow the gas agencies run on partnership basis, to bifurcate between the partners;

(c) if so, the number of such partnership based running agencies allowed to bifurcate during the last three years, year-wise, till date; and

(d) the criteria being following in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) During the last three years i.e. 1993-94 to 1995-96 1117 LPG distributorships have been allotted all over the country.

(b) to (d) Bifurcation of an LPG distributorship is permitted on compassionate grounds or some other extraordinary circumstances in deserving cases. Accordingly, during the period 1993-94 to 1995-96, 2 LPG distributorships have been allowed to be bifurcated on compassionate grounds.

Clearance of power projects upto Rs. 1000 crores

133. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced clearance of power projects upto Rs. 1000 crore;

(b) if so, whether environmntal impact assessment would be ensured for such power projects;

(c) whether court cases would increase in view of the Government going back on the norms for environment clearance; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that environmental aspects are given due care while setting up such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Government of India has decided in September, 1996 that generation power projects set up by generating companies selected through competitive bidding and costing up to Rs. 1000 Crores need not be submitted to the Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There shall be no compromise on prescribed environmental standards and norms, while setting up such projects.

Electricity Distribution by Independent Regulatory Commission

134. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have rejected the proposal of the Central Government to vest the powers of licensing corporates entering electricity distribution to Independent Regulatory Commission;